

# IRAQI DESTINY

A man in a tan shirt is carrying a large, light-colored sack, possibly sandbags, in front of a military vehicle. The background shows a clear blue sky and parts of the vehicle's structure.

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**\$24 Million, 1.2  
Billion Dinar  
lands in Mosul**

**(See Page 3)**

## Commentary

# The new Iraq: *U.S. commander recalls process of Joint Iraqi Security Company formation*

by Lt. Col. Donald G. Fryc,  
2-44th ADA

Approximately six weeks ago, the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, formed the Joint Iraqi Security Company with a vision – to recruit, train, resource, and equip volunteers from across Northern Iraq that would play an important role in Iraq's future.

Upon being charged by the division leadership to undertake this task, the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, "Strike Fear," rapidly planned, prepared, and executed a rigorous training cycle to prepare JISC candidates for their future of securing and preserving the peace in a new and free Iraq.

The recruits were primarily from Northern Iraq and came from several different ethnic backgrounds, including Kurdish and Arabic soldiers from Peshmerga Forces, New Iraqi Security Forces, and Former Iraqi Freedom Fighters.

When they volunteered, none of the soldiers had any idea what the future held – only that the concepts and ideals of the future held far better promise than those of the past.

Although roughly half of the soldiers had previous military experience, the terrain and weather conditions truly tested the depths of their character.

Candidates trained six days a week in temperatures that routinely exceeded 110 degrees Fahrenheit. They spent countless

hours on physical training, weapons handling, first aid, drill and ceremonies, and small unit infantry tactics.

Training cadre consisted of Capt. Brian DeLeon, 1st Lt. Daniel Donovan, and 1st Sgt. Gary James. Along with assistance from both division and battalion staff elements, they quickly recognized the historical significance of their mission and poured all their energy and effort into making the JISC vision a reality.

According to DeLeon, the biggest challenge was "the language barrier." Throughout the training cycle he used multiple interpreters to explain over and over the tasks, conditions, and standards for each training event.

James, the senior noncommissioned officer involved in the project, pointed out, "they don't really have an NCO Corps, so everything they do is centralized through the officers."

Notwithstanding these challenges in training, the Strike Fear cadre "led by example" and personally demonstrated each and every task the soldiers needed to acquire.

As the training progressed, they quickly learned the invaluable lesson of working together as a team. Ultimately, all soldiers embraced the common goal to "cooperate and graduate." This was no small undertaking because of the soldiers' past historical and ethnic differences.

On graduation day, a bold visual impression of the company's commitment to teamwork and loyalty to one another was found fluttering in the desert wind on their company guidon.

On the two by three foot flag was the symbol of two hands clasped together. However, this symbol of a handshake signified much more than just an agreement. It was an unequivocal statement that they would all look forward, not backward, and to strive towards a loftier pursuit – a free and democratic Iraq unchained from its oppressive past.

Unmistakably, the graduation ceremony marked a historic first step forward for the Joint Iraqi Security Company that is already assisting coalition forces secure and preserve the peace in Northern Iraq.

Witnessed by numerous civilian leaders from the city of Mosul and the surrounding four provinces, the overarching feeling at the ceremony was one of optimism and hope. Optimism because of the remarkable progress that is being made all over Northern Iraq in stabilizing the peace, and hope that the brave soldiers of the first Joint Iraqi Security Company will light the path towards a brighter Iraqi future – a future of hope and promise being written every day.

The future of the JISC was best captured by Petraeus' remarks, "Maj. Gen. William C. Lee – the first commanding general of the 101st – once said of the division that 'we have no history, but we have a rendezvous with destiny.'"

Likewise, the Joint Iraqi Security Company has no history, but now, it too has a rendezvous with destiny."

*Editor's Note: Fryc is the commander of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Northern Iraq.*

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**On the cover:** Spc. Booby Cobert of Casper, Ala., of the 1-94th Field Artillery Regiment (Fort Bragg, N.C.), helps load 1.2 Billion Dinars into a couple of trucks en route to two banks in Mosul. Photo by Pfc. Thomas Day



# Civil employees, military's salaries arrive

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

Payments to government workers, including military, may be back on track after several aid drops into Mosul courtesy of the Coalition Provisional Authority, under the lead of former Ambassador L. Paul Bremer.

"We're playing catch-up," said Maj. Rene Cossin, who wears civilian clothes as he works with the CPA. "We're still paying May and June salaries as we speak."

With several aid drops in the past several weeks and more scheduled in the near future, he said the CPA will be "back on track for salary payments."

The money, totaling \$24 million in U.S. currency and an additional 1.2 billion dinar in Thursday's drop alone, was transferred to two local banks, including the Mosul central bank along the Tigris River.

The American currency will be used for salaries, pensions and military stipends, according to Cossin.

"The Dinar is going to be a bonus for all civil servants," he added.

Soldiers from the 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs

Battalion have also worked actively to facilitate salary and pension payments for local government workers, often teaming up with the CPA.

"There are a lot of people who have already been paid, but they need to be paid again," said Maj. Nathaniel Balentine of Newport, Ark., 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs CPA team. "This will help them feed their families."

Balentine added that the fall of Saddam's government and the Ba'ath party has left a salary hole that coalition forces and the CPA must fill. "Because we are the government now, we have the responsibility of paying our employees."

## Weapons policy enforcement begins in North

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

A new weapons policy established by the Coalition Provisional Authority, aimed at disarming political parties north of the "Green Line," is now being enforced by American troops operating in the region.

"The coalition forces established an amnesty period up here that ended July 2," said Master Sgt. Joe Rutter of Cherry Hill, N.J., who is operating in Erbil with his unit, the 404<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion.

Weapons prohibited under the new policy are being collected at local police stations in predominantly Kurdish areas.

Only the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Party for a Democratic Kurdistan are now authorized by the CPA to hold weapons larger than AK-47s.

All other parties in the Kurdish areas must surrender their field and air defense artillery, missiles, rocket propelled grenades and launchers and other large munitions to the coalition.

According to Rutter, the parties have volunteered to do

so. "They won't pose a threat against the new democratic government," he said. "They don't see the need to arm themselves."

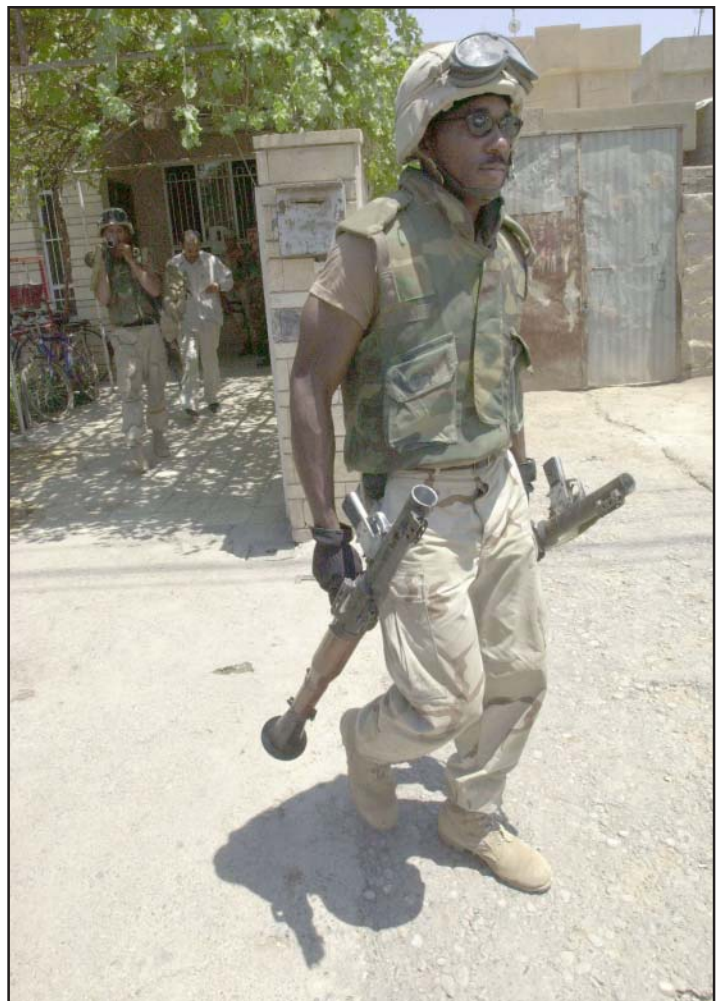
Soldiers from the Battery B, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., swept through the Kurdish city of Erbil Friday, collecting munitions at four different sites before making a quick stop at the small town of Shaqlavyah to gather weapons in that area.

"This is pretty dangerous work," said Capt. Robert Burgess of Phoenix, Ariz., commander, Batt. B. "My soldiers are really careful with what they're doing. They pay attention when up-loading ammo."

Penalties for holding a banned weapon or weapon system under the CPA weapons policy include a one year prison sentence and a \$5,000 fine.

Most of the weapons collected under the new weapons policy, according to Rutter, will be destroyed by coalition forces.

A small percentage of the weapons, after refurbishing, will be given to the new Iraqi Army, he said.



Pfc. Thomas Day

A soldier from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., carry a collection of rocket propelled grenade launchers out of a local police station in Erbil. The munitions were taken from several Kurdish political parties as part of a Coalition Provisional Authority's new weapons policy in Northern Iraq.

## Around Iraq

## 3rd Infantry Division may be home sooner than later

by Spc. Bill Putnam  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** -- Talk of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division staying indefinitely in Iraq may be a little exaggerated, said Larry Di Rita, during a media roundtable at the Pentagon July 15.

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, the division's commander, said last week that he hoped the division's 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams, based at Fort Stewart, Ga., would be home by September.

He sent families back home an update this week. Due to the "increasing attacks on coalition forces in Iraq" the general said the redeployment has been postponed indefinitely, said some media reports.

But that may not be the case, said Di Rita, the acting assistant secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

There are a lot of variables that determine how soon units can re-deploy back home, he said.

They include the availability of either international or U.S. troops slated to replace

them, and security in Iraq.

The key to this redeployment is to maintain a level of troops there, said Di Rita.

Although Di Rita said it was "premature" to give numbers, he did say the U.S. has a number of sources to maintain that level. They include coalition forces, non-coalition and U.S. National Guard divisions.

The current number of 150,000 soldiers, as Gen. Tommy Franks and John Abizaid said last week before Congress, is about right, Di Rita said.

India's recent decision not to deploy a division of 17,000 soldiers to Iraq hasn't played a part in delaying the 3rd ID's complete redeployment, Di Rita said.

"The intent is to have the division home by September," he said.

About 6,500 soldiers from the division have redeployed back home by the end of this week, said Dina McKain, a 3rd Infantry Division spokesperson.

The division deployed 16,500 soldiers to Iraq during the fall of 2002 and the winter of 2003 before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## A look at Iraq's governing council

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** -- Here is a list of the members of the Iraq governing council that held its inaugural meeting Sunday. The council has 13 Shiites, 5 Kurds, 5 Sunnis, 1 Christian and 1 Turkoman, including three women, in an attempt to reflect the country's diverse demographics. Shiites make up about 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million people, but they have never ruled the country.

- Ahmad Chalabi, founder of Iraqi National Congress, Shiite
- Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution, Shiite
- Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Dawa Islamic Party, Shiite
- Naseer al-Chaderchi, National Democratic Party, Sunni
- Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Sunni Kurd
- Massoud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party, Sunni Kurd
- Iyad Allawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord, Shiite
- Ahmed al-Barak, human rights activist, Shiite
- Adnan Pachachi, former foreign minister, Sunni
- Aquila al-Hashimi, foreign affairs expert, Shiite
- Raja Habib al-Khuzai, maternity hospital director in south, Shiite
- Hamid Majid Moussa, Communist Party, Shiite
- Mohammed Bahr al-Ulloum, cleric from Najaf, Shiite
- Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, northern tribal chief, Sunni
- Mohsen Abdel Hamid, Iraqi Islamic Party, Sunni
- Samir Shakir Mahmoud, Sunni
- Mahmoud Othman, Sunni Kurd
- Salaheddine Bahaeddin, Kurdistan Islamic Union, Sunni Kurd
- Younadem Kana, Assyrian Christian
- Mouwafak al-Rabii, Shiite
- Dara Noor Alzin, judge, Sunni Kurd
- Sondul Chapouk, Turkoman
- Wael Abdul Latif, Basra governor, Shiite
- Abdel-Karim Mahoud al-Mohammedawi, member of Iraqi political party Hezbollah, Shiite
- Abdel-Zahraa Othman Mohammed, Dawa Party, Shiite

## Opposition leaders apprehended in Northern Iraq

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** -- Coalition forces apprehended opposition leaders in northern Iraq July 11, in the continued fight for freedom in Iraq.

In Mosul, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) apprehended three local opposition leaders. All three men are currently detained in the division's holding facility.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force along with the Iraqi Police arrested two men in Al Kifl, one of whom is suspected to be a colonel in the former regime's security force. Coalition forces searched the suspects' houses finding approximately 100 blasting caps, time fuses and other explosives.

In a separate patrol, 1<sup>st</sup> MEF seized a cache of 1,000 122mm rockets in the town of Shayka Mazhar. They also

seized numerous mortar rounds.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division conducted four raids resulting in 233 individuals detained and 20 pistols and 20 assault rifles confiscated.

Elsewhere, Coalition forces continued aggressive patrols throughout the country conducting 26 raids, 1,088 day patrols and 764 night patrols. They also jointly patrolled with the Iraqi Police conducting 185 day patrols and 210 night patrols during one 24-hour period. Independently Iraqi Police conducted 71 day and three night patrols.

The total raids and patrols resulted in 99 arrests for various criminal activities including four for murder, two for kidnapping, three for car jacking, six for aggravated assault, eight for burglary, and 12 looting.



# Tri-component battalion makes history in Iraq

Active duty, reservists, guardsmen unite to stabilize northern forces, Ninevah province

As the only tri-component Army unit, the 52nd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) brought its unique capabilities to the battlefield by supporting base camps in southern Iraq and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in stabilization operations in Mosul.

The engineer battalion is comprised of an active-duty unit, based at Fort Carson, Colo., a reserve company from Santa Fe, N.M. and a National Guard unit from Albany, Ore.

"It's challenging," said former commander Lt. Col. Michael Byrne, who changed command with Lt. Col. Michael Teague July 8 at Logistical Support Area Diamondback in Mosul.

"We try to cover down on weekend drill to provide command over site and vice versa the leadership comes down to Fort Carson (where the battalion is based) as often as possible."

But the distance of the companies across the U.S. was not the greatest challenge in making the unit cohesive.

"I think the biggest challenge was pots of money. Each component had no idea of how to get money for the other," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lester McIntosh, a veteran of the unit since shortly after it's reestablishment in 1999.

What really helped the unit the most was when Byrne took command as the reserve commander and understood where and how to get funds which were desperately needed for the reserve and guard units.

"As a reserve commander he (Byrne) understood and could challenge his reserve component units and soldiers," said Col. Sharon Duffy, commander, 43rd Area Support Group at Fort Carson. "He knew when they were not giving it their all and he and his command group worked for two years to get this unit ready," she added.

Prior to the deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the battalion only came together once before for a



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), congratulates the leadership of the 52nd Engineer Battalion on the work they have completed in the city of Mosul. The 52nd Eng. Bn. is the only tri-component unit in the Army, consisting of an active-duty company and a reserve unit and National Guard unit.

training exercise in South Dakota dubbed Golden Thunder.

Because of Golden Thunder and the fact that they have an active duty company stationed at Fort Carson, the mobilization effort was an easier transition than what most reserve units encounter when mobilized.

"The units were better taken care of because barracks were already lined up and we had a headquarters element with assets to get the soldiers and their equipment where it needed to be," Byrne said.

The unit deployed to Kuwait and shortly after to Iraq in April and has since participated in building base camps in Southern Iraq during the war effort and then attaching to the 101st Abn. Div. (AASlt.) in stabilization operations in Mosul.

With an never-ending supply of missions the 52nd has found themselves fixing an orphanage, supplying every military compound with showers and latrines and helping fight a sulfur fire about 30 kilometers from Mosul.

They also helped fix the plumbing and electrical outlets at the Division Main

headquarters and the Civil Military Operations Center.

"They are a heavy battalion which means anything that can be built they can do it," Duffy said. "From cement foundations, to building houses this unit can start and finish any project with their own assets which makes them a vital part of operations here," she added.

From bulldozers to hammers and nails, the battalion used every resource to improve the quality of life of not only soldiers but for the people of Iraq who needed the help the most.

This unit is capable of everything and this deployment was an excellent opportunity for the battalion and the soldiers to show they - whether active-duty or reservist - have the ability to work together as a team and be so cohesive that no one would be able to tell one from the other, Duffy said.

Contributed by  
Public Affairs Office,  
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

# Rakkasans help locals



Capt. Derek Mayfield, commander, Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), speaks with the leaders of a small village in the Sinjar province, near the Syrian border. Mayfield plans on helping them build a well and a clinic to treat the sick and injured.



An Iraqi worker chisels grooves into a wall for electrical wiring at Tal Kasap, Iraq's only school. The repair is the combined work of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, 318th Psychological Operations Company, out of St. Louis, Mo., and locals.



photos by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

A man spackles the roof of the only school in Tal Kasap, Iraq. Repairing the school is a joint effort between 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 318th Psychological Operations Company out of St. Louis, Mo. and locals.



Soldiers from Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 318th Psychological Operations Company out of St. Louis, Mo., and locals enter a school in Tal Kasap, Iraq, that is being repaired and modernized.



## Screaming Eagle Profile: *Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Alcendor, Dominican joined to fight African wars*

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

From the small Caribbean island of Dominica comes Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Alcendor, command sergeant major, 7th Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault). Alcendor, who emigrated to the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1969 on a tourist pass, became a permanent resident of the United States in 1977 and enlisted in the U.S. Army "immediately thereafter."

Alcendor originally intended to join the military when he came to the Virgin Islands mainly for the training, to fight revolutions in Africa against British and Portuguese colonial governments in the "front line" states bordering South Africa, then under strict apartheid rule.

"I thought it would be good to go to Africa as a revolutionary," according to Alcendor. The Army, he said, was "the only way to have the knowledge of weaponry."

Alcendor's 60's spirit, as he calls it,



**ALCENDOR**

*Enlisted: 1977  
Hometown: Dominica  
(Caribbean Island)  
Unit: 7th Bn., 101st Avn. Rgt.*

gave way to domestication. When he finally was able to enlist in the military in 1977, Alcendor had been married for six years with one child and another on the way. Twenty-six years later, Alcendor has yet to take arms in any African revolution

but has served in both Gulf Wars, Haiti, Somalia and Afghanistan.

"The geopolitical landscape in Africa has changed," according to Alcendor. Colonial governments in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe have been overthrown, but Alcendor's vision for the front line states has not entirely been achieved. Current Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe (a man Alcendor calls "the black Hitler"), who led revolutionaries in the overthrow of an oppressive British supported colonial government, has sabotaged elections that he would have likely lost, according to Alcendor.

At 52, Alcendor will consider calling it a career after the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne "Screaming Eagles" fly back to Fort Campbell, Ky., from Operation Iraqi Freedom. He now has 4 children, one of which, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roger Ralph Alcendor, will report to Fort Campbell later this month.

"I've seen the changes in the Army," he said. "You have a different breed of soldiers today...they are very good soldiers."

"Today we do more with less," Alcendor added.

## Muktars, Imams and Bishop meet, voice concerns

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

Local political leaders, called "Muktars," joined Imams, religious leaders, the Mosul University chancellor, and the Bishop of Mosul, in airing their concerns ranging from education to the military presence in the city.

Commanders and junior officers from the 3rd Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), met with local officials at the Civilian Military Operations Center in Mosul Monday in a question and answer conference with Lt. Col. Rick Carlson, battalion commander.

One official even complained that troops lodged in Mosul hotels are thwarting the tourist industry.

"Coalition Forces are very smart men," Carlson joked in response to the complaint. "I can assure sir that when we

leave the hotels, we will leave them in much better shape than how we found them."

The Ninevah Hotel, now home to the CMOC, was left in ruins when the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) moved into Mosul shortly after the fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Monday's conference marked the third time the commanders had met with the local officials in this way, according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert Chamberlain of Topeka, Kan.

Chamberlain underscored the efforts as establishing a two-way dialogue with the local officials.

"It becomes not what the coalition can do for the Iraqis," Chamberlain said in Kennedy-esque fashion, "but what the Iraqis and the coalition can do together."

"We keep having really good turnout," he added. "The first one had 25 (local officials), the second one had about 50." Chamberlain estimated Monday's conference turnout reached more than 60 people.



Pfc. Thomas Day

Lt. Col. Rick Carlson, commander, 3rd Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), with his interpreter (center) and his recorder, meets with local officials Monday at the Civilian Military Operations Center in Mosul.

# *Saint Matthew's Monastery*



photos by Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Saint Matthew's Monastery, a Greek Orthodox church is built into the side of Mount Maqlub, which overlooks the Christian village Mergi.

## Chaplains, soldiers visit religious site

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

Chaplains of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) met with a council of Christian bishops Tuesday at the Saint Matthews monastery, located outside the Christian village of Mergi.

The division's Chaplains regularly meet with religious leaders in the area to discuss problems unique in the communities the leaders represent.

"Today many issues came to light with the bishops," said Chap. (Capt.) John Stutz, chaplain, Civil Military Operations Center.

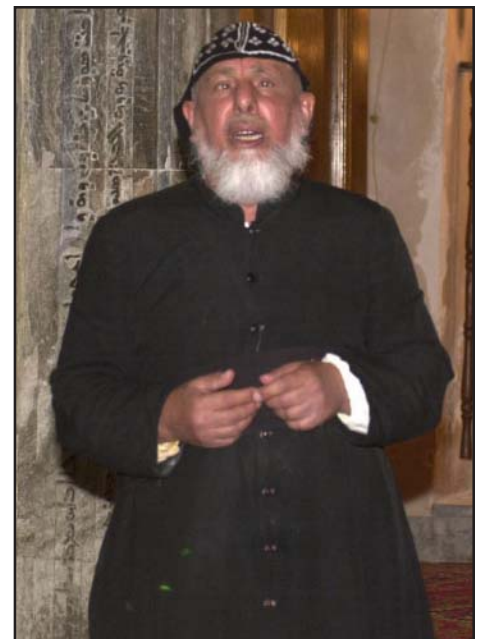
"We discovered that the monastery of St. Eli, located in Mosul, has unexploded ordnance stored inside of it. The building itself has been unoccupied for more than 30 years, according to the bishops though,"

Stutz said. "The problem has now been identified and the building will be cleared."

Other issues included concerns about equality in a country that contains many religions within its borders. "They don't want any more influence or power than anyone else," Stutz said. "They just want to be treated like equals."

There are concerns about the previous laws, which segregated people of different religions, according to Stutz. "They want to make sure these laws are changed to make them equitable to all faiths."

One of the biggest issues is the constant bombardment of misinformation about Coalition forces and what they are doing for the people, according to Stutz. "The problem is they are usually getting the wrong information about something or they're getting no information," he said. "Our job is to make sure the facts are given to these leaders so they can disseminate it to their communities."



A blind priest sings a hymn in Arabic. Chaplains with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) met with priests at St. Matthews monastery, located outside Mosul July 15.



# ***Saint Matthew's Monastery***

## ***Iraq's Christian heritage***

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

Iraq has a history that is rich in cultural heritage for many people.

As the "cradle of civilization," it holds archeological sites that are some of the oldest in the world.

One such site is the St. Matthews monastery, located outside the village of Mergi, which translates into "green valley."

The monastery was built on the side of a mountainside called "Maqlub," overlooking Mergi and was originally built there in the early 4th century A.D.

The legend of the monastery goes back to a time when countries such as Iraq, did not exist.

The region in which St. Matthews is located belonged to the country of Persia at the time.

Persia was divided into many parts

during the 4<sup>th</sup> century. One such "province," called Namrood, was ruled by King Sanhareeb. Sanhareeb had a son named Behnam and a daughter, Sarah.

Legend has it that one day, Behnam went hunting with a group of soldiers and wandered onto the mountain where St. Matthew lived in solitude. He is said to have had a heavenly vision that night, which brought him to St. Matthew. He later healed the prince's sister, who was suffering from leprosy.

In light of this miracle, Benhnam and Sarah were baptized and came to believe in Christ.

The news spread of their conversion, which eventually reached their father. In a rage, he had them both burned to death.

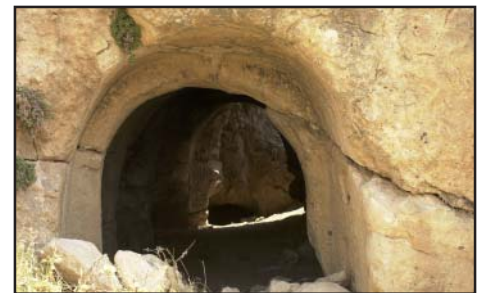
The story goes that after doing so, the earth cracked and the king became very ill. A prayer from St. Matthew cured him of his malady. In consequence, the king and many of his soldiers were baptized. A monastery was built near St. Matthew's cave in a gesture of gratitude.

The monastery was improved little by little over time and was a very famous library in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. Unfortunately, it was burned, losing all the ancient knowledge contained therein.

According to the monks who reside there, the monastery has been damaged or destroyed many times. However, it was repaired every time.

The current building in place dates back 300 years. The building even received a little renovation by Saddam Hussein during his rule, according to the monks.

*Editor's note: Information gathered from a flier received at the monastery, was used to produce this article.*



St. Matthew's cave, located on Mount Maqlub.



Greek Orthodox Priests file into St. Matthew's Monastery, located near the Christian village Mergi. The monastery dates back to the 4th century.

# Soldiers work with Iraqis building house of hope

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

A small one story house is being constructed to provide a home for a displaced Iraqi family by the soldiers of Company B, 52<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion and local citizens.

The project, entitled House of Hope, is projected to provide homes to many displaced families, according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mariann Hop, Co. B, 52<sup>nd</sup> Eng. Bn. "This first house is a prototype. The goal is to teach the local guys how to do it. Then we will have Iraqis building homes for Iraqis," she said.

The construction had modest beginnings, pouring a concrete foundation to build from. Soldiers had a few problems with the cement though. "The concrete comes very wet, because of the heat," said Capt. Martin Naranjo, construction officer, 52<sup>nd</sup> Eng. Bn. "The other problem is the cement dries very quickly, making us have to work really fast. Once we lay (the cement), we have about 15 minutes to work with it before it dries."

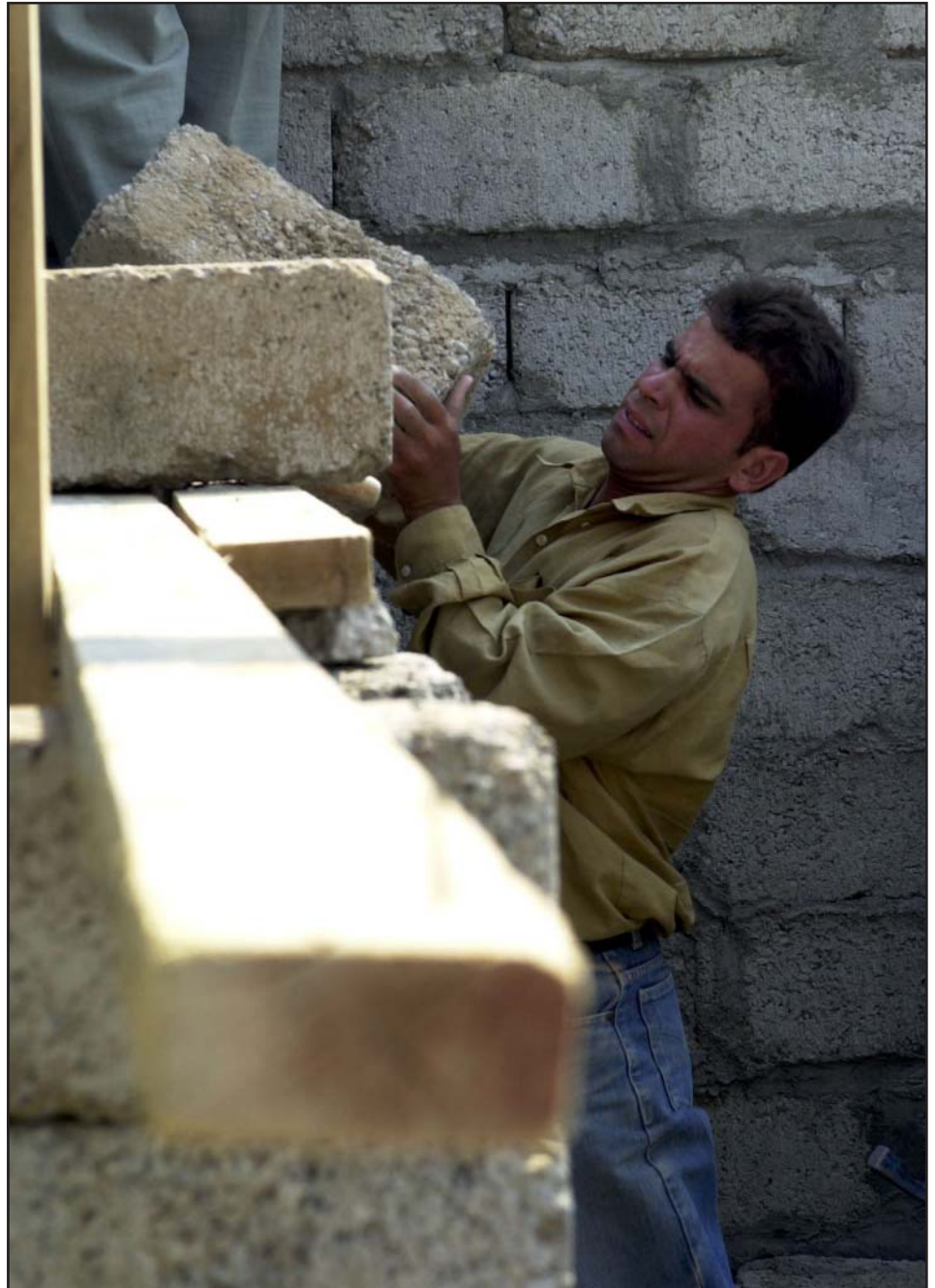
The next projects were the walls, windows and doors. Soldiers worked with Iraqi materials, working with concrete blocks and mortar. The work was slow going, but that's the way it is with the first house, according to Spc. Darrell Wynia, Co. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, attached to the 52<sup>nd</sup>. "We get the prototype done, figure out all the mistakes we made and the next one is easier on us," he said.

Slow going as the work may be, however, the 52<sup>nd</sup> is about a day ahead of schedule, according to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Brown, Co. B, 52<sup>nd</sup> Eng. Bn.

"Right now, what we're doing is making the supports for the doors and windows, which are called lentils," Brown said.

In addition to the soldiers' effort on the prototype house, several Iraqis have joined in the effort.

"It's been a good learning experience from both sides," Brown said. "They don't worry quite as much about quality as we do, but they use all of the broken



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

A former Iraqi soldier heaves a block up so it can be placed in the wall. The first house is expected to be finished by early August.

material lying around. They're very resourceful; they don't waste anything."

The houses will be used for displaced Iraqis who moved out during the war and don't have homes to come back to,

according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Phillip Valenti, 326<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

"We're building a village," Wynia said. "We're going to win the hearts and minds of somebody."



# Athletic Club provides distraction from streets of Mosul

## *Safe environment keeps youths out of danger, out of trouble, off streets*

By taking the pounding of children's feet off the streets and onto soccer fields and inside a gymnasium, soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment have chosen to take a different approach to clearing the streets of Mosul.

The battalion, which is part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), took over the project of restoring and renovating the Athletic Center of Mosul on the eastern side of the city.

Prior to the war, the club was home to 600 to 800 youth athletes - some considered semi-pro by Iraqi standards.

The club has a training center for

soccer, boxing, gymnastics room, tae kwon do workout area and a weight lifting room.

The soccer field is lit which will help to keep many of the children off the streets at night: the main objective of not only the battalion but the brigade itself which is in charge of ensuring that the citizens of Mosul are safe and secure.

During the war, Fedayeen troops occupied the facility and stripped it bare prior to leaving as U.S. troops moved toward the Nineveh Province.

The 3-502nd Inf. Rgt. is trying to restore, rebuild and refurbish the athletic club to its prior status.

But the most important is to get the children off the streets and give them a place to go, something besides loitering around now that school is ending, said a battalion spokesperson.

A challenge that must be overcome, however, is the staff that includes the instructors, club attendants and the 24-hour guards, has not been paid.

To date the battalion spent almost \$10,000 to restore the facility.

Contributed by  
Public Affairs Office

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

## *The Judge Says...* **Items of legal interest to soldiers**

**Q: My power of attorney is being abused. Can I revoke my power of attorney and assign it to another person? How can I do this quickly?**

**A:** Unfortunately, powers of attorney are often abused. This is why soldiers are advised not to give a general POA when a special POA will do, and only to give a POA to a trusted individual. Sadly, the most common abusers of POAs are spouses and parents, so being family does not always guarantee trustworthiness.

A POA can be revoked in one of two ways. One, the original POA can be destroyed. This only works if the "grantor" (the person giving the power) can lay hands on the document. Two, create a revocation of power of attorney. A revocation is a stand-alone document in which the grantor specifically and immediately revokes the existing POA.

A legal assistance provider can prepare a revocation on the spot, but the problem is getting it to the places where the grantee (the person given the power) might misuse the POA.

At a minimum, the grantor should send a revocation to any banks, credit companies, AAFES and finance, to try to limit the abuse.

A soldier can contact such places immediately by telephone or by email, but such communications cannot be relied on; a hard copy revocation should ALWAYS be

sent.

*A soldier can issue another power of attorney to a different individual, but the same rules apply: it should be limited to a specific purpose when possible, limited to the minimum duration necessary, and given only to a trusted individual.*

**Q: How can I remove a co-signer from my checking account while I am in Iraq? Is it difficult for my pay to be deposited into a new account?**

**A:** Generally speaking, a joint bank account is equally accessible in full by both parties, meaning either person can withdraw up to 100 percent of the money in the account, and it cannot be closed by one of the co-signers.

If Jeremy and Jennifer are both on the account, Jennifer can take her own name off, but she cannot force Jeremy's name off. She may still be liable for any outstanding checks on the account however.

Changing one's Direct Deposit can be done through Finance, but the more difficult part may be opening a new bank account from Iraq. Since most banks require filling out forms and signing a signature card, it may take up to a month to create a new bank account through the mail (emails and faxes are usually not accepted). Still, it is best to begin the process now if the account is being mishandled.

## **Mosul camp integrates security forces**

**(101st PAO)** -- The 101st Airborne Division main headquarters here will begin the integration of a Joint Iraqi Security Company into its security force.

The JISC, who were trained by the 2-44 Air Defense Artillery Regiment, will join U.S. infantry soldiers patrolling, standing gate guard and perimeter tower guard security operations.

The force, which is the first military security force in Iraq made up of Iraqis from across the country and hopefully soon to be the first self-sufficient Iraqi military force, is split into three platoons, one of Kurdish soldiers, one of former troops from the Free Iraqi Force and one of former Iraqi military troops.

The troops received basic combat training including first aid, weapons and tactics.

The company follows a "shadow" chain of command, with a U.S. commander, executive officer, and first sergeant, coupled with Iraqi counterparts.

The company's integration process into the DMAIN began with the restoration of a building just outside the old perimeter and reached its culmination July 16 when the company began security operations on its own.

# Man on the Street

What needs to be done in Mosul that hasn't been done yet?



"Electricity, just two hours it works in a 24-hour day."

- Nema Eadan Muhammed, local citizen



"Give more attention to the university... the educated people, they have suffered enough before the war."

- Omar Basil, CMOC linguist

"We have no gasoline. How can we work?"

- Capt. Ghazi Ahmed Balny, Peshmerga Forces



"Security, we want more security."

- Basam Ganem, local citizen



"Water and electricity, we need that."

- 2nd Lt. Naef Saleh Abraham, Peshmerga Forces



"Roads and streets, they aren't maintaining roads."

- Same Hady Abid, local citizen